

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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| COUNTRY | USSR (Azerbaijani SSR) | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | 1. Soviet Military Activity Along the Iranian Border | DATE DISTR. | 10 June 1954 |
| | 2. Poor Crops in Azerbaijan | NO. OF PAGES | 2 |
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. At all Soviet outposts in the Astara area of the Iranian border, the guards conducted firing practice daily from 0900 hours to 1300 hours. At Astara, the men practiced with light machine guns, submachine guns, and grenades behind the barracks.
2. In the area of the Qermezi post, Soviet soldiers practiced advancing under fire with cartridge boxes strapped to their legs.¹ They received instructions from their officers. Soviet troops at Kalvaz (sic), in Pileh Rud district, practiced firing light and heavy machine guns under the supervision of Captain Antonov (fnu).
3. Military activities have been observed at Belyasuvar (N 39-22, E 48-22), Garini (N 39-01, E 48-03), Azadlu (sic), and Daman (sic).
4. About 1,000 Soviet soldiers, about 500 of whom were unarmed and the rest equipped with radios and heavy machine guns, arrived in the Archevan (N 38-30, E 48-52) and Sanjari areas, where they lived in tents.²
5. Since 1 September 1953, the inspection activities of Soviet officers have increased. Major Yulkin (fnu), Major Antushkin (fnu), and Major Ivanov (fnu) inspected Station No. 13 daily.
6. About 1,000 soldiers went to Qarnamo (sic), in the Astara district, for maneuvers.
7. Two thousand Soviet infantry and cavalry troops, some of whom were unarmed, were reported concentrated in the Astara and Kalaputi (N 38-48, E 48-25) districts for maneuvers. The Soviets moved 10 frontier villages almost 25 km behind the Daman mountains (sic). Inhabitants of Daman and Bagram Tepe (N 39-44, E 48-01) districts were leading their families and herds towards the interior. [redacted] the Soviets vacated six villages on the border, including Azadlu, leaving behind only six persons, including collective farm chairmen Bani Yahya and Qari (sic). Colonel Chishov (fnu) of the 43rd Regiment, Military District 2037 (sic), took the inhabitants to Barshib (sic, possibly Prishibinskoye) and Daman in early August.

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8. Motorized Soviet troops were in Prishibinskoye (N 39-08, E 48-36). The movement of Soviet motorized troops also increased at the frontier posts of Sheri (sic), Kalaputi, and Kezel Asar (sic). On 26 August 1953, two Soviet aircraft flew over Sheri. After passing over Soviet Astara three times, they flew towards Lenkoran.
9. One thousand soldiers, 400 of whom were armed with rifles and machine guns and the rest of whom were newly arrived, were concentrated around Alachai (N 38-27, E 48-47).

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11. The Soviets had poor crops in 1953 in the areas of Moghan, Bagram Tepe, and Daman. In addition, an infestation of rats damaged the harvest.

Comments

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1. Qermezi may possibly be Kermizi (N 38-24, E 48-40).
2. Sanjari may possibly be Sanjaradi (N 38-28, E 48-48).

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